

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 026074

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT REYKJAVIK 0236 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

NATO OSLO 07 FEB

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0236

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS COMICEDEFOR, CINCLANT AND SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE: COMMENTS BY NORWEGIANS JOHAN

JORGEN HOLST AND GENERAL HUITFELD

REF: REYKJAVIK 221

1. DR. JOHAN JORGEN HOLST, DIRECTOR, NORWEGIAN FOREIGN POLICY INSTITUTE, AND MAJOR GENERAL TONNE HUITFELD, COMMANDER, NORTH NORWEGIAN 7TH DIVISION, CALLED ON AMB FEB 5 TO RELATE INSIGHTS FROM JUST CONCLUDED NORWEGIAN-ICELANDIC CONFERENCE ON SECURITY ISSUE (REPORTED REFTEL).

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2. HOLST STRUCK BY NATURE OF ICELANDIC DISCUSSION AND PERCEPTION OF NORTH ATLANTIC SECURITY GENERALLY AND KEFLAVIK BASE SPECIFICALLY. APPRECIATIVE OF THE PARTISAN CONSTELLATIONS WHICH VARIOUS ICELANDIC PRINCIPALS REPRESENT AND MUST APPEAL TO, HOLST NOTED LOCAL DIS-

CUSSION ALSO AFFECTED BY LACK OF ICELANDIC ANALYTIC EXPERTISE ON STRATEGIC AND MILITARY MATTERS AS WELL AS BY THE LANGUAGE ITSELF -- WHICH DEALS AWKWARDLY WITH SUCH CONCEPTS AS DETERRANCE, PASSIVE CONFRONTATION, ETC.

3. HOLST FOUND NON-COMMUNIST POLITICIANS FAIRLY PERSUADED OF NEED TO MAINTAIN A SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY, AT LEAST UNTIL EQUAL CAPABILITY COULD BE ESTABLISHED ELSEWHERE. HE AND HUITFELD FOUND NAIVE THE APPARENT WILLINGNESS OUTSIDE OF THE INDEPENDENCE PARTY TO DO WITHOUT AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY.

4. HOLST FOUND THESE ARGUMENTS MOST IMPORTANT TO CONVEY HERE:

A. THE STABILITY WHICH A NATO PRESENCE IN ICELAND PROVIDES IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC. BEING THE CENTER OF A VACUUM CANNOT BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO ICELAND. IT WOULD ALSO ASSURE, IN THE EVENT EITHER OF ALL-OUT OR LIMITED (A SOVIET MOVE IN THE NORTH TO PROTECT KOLA) WAR A "RACE" TO ICELAND.

B. THE ASSURANCE THE SURVEILLANCE AND AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY PROVIDES THAT TRANSATLANTIC ALLIED SHIPPING AND RESUPPLY LANES CAN BE MAINTAINED IN PEACE AND WAR. FOR NORWAY THIS IS ESSENTIAL/: RESUPPLY MUST BE CREDIBLE.

C. THE IMPORTANCE OF AIR DEFENSE TO ASSURE RESUPPLY OF BOTH ICELAND AND NORTHERN EUROPE AS WELL AS TO PROTECT SHIPPING. SURVEILLANCE COULD BE LOCATED ELSEWHERE, HOLST THOUGHT, BUT FIGHTER DEFENSE COULD NOT.

D THE IMPORTANCE OF SURVEILLANCE BOTH TO REDUCE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE MOVEMENTS AND CAPABILITY OF THE ENORMOUS SOVIET FLEET AND TO MAKE POSSIBLE EVENTUAL REDUCTION OF STANDING FORCES. HOLST CONSIDERED LATTER POINT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRATS: THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BASE CANNOT BE A POLITICAL END IN ITSELF FOR MANY POLITICIANS; IT MUST BE SEEN AS A PRESENTLY-ESSENTIAL ELEMENT FOR ACHIEVING A BETTER-ORDERED WORLD.  
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5. HOLST REPORTED MUCH FRUSTRATION ON BEHALF OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT PRO-BASE POLITICIANS (INCLUDING GISLASON AND GRONDAL OF SDP, VALDIMARSSON OF OLL, AND SKAFTASON OF PP) ABOUT THEIR INABILITY TO OBTAIN OBJECTIVE, FACTUAL MATERIAL IN ORDER FOR THEM TO MAKE THEIR OWN ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANCE OF BASE AND TO DOCUMENT THEIR POSITIONS. HOLST FELT THIS FRUSTRATION PARTLY DUE TO LACK OF INDEPENDENT SOURCES AND THUS BEING FORCED TO RELY SO THOROUGHLY ON AMERICAN SOURCES "WHICH CONTROL THE INFORMATION FILTER"; AND PARTLY DUE TO OVERCLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION ON OUR PART WHICH, AS A CONSEQUENCE, WORKS AGAINST US AND OUR IDF ICELANDIC FRIENDS IN SUPPORTING THE BASE. HOLST SAID EVEN IF THEIR SKEPTICISM IS UNFOUNDED, THEY NEVERTHELESS FEEL WE ARE NOT TELLING THEM THE WHOLE STORY. HE SAID WE MUST BE MORE FORTHCOMING WITH INFORMATION ON BASE ACTIVITIES AND MUST DO A BETTER JOB OF TELLING ICELANDERS

HOW THE IDF FITS INTO THE TOTAL STRATEGIC PICTURE. IN SHORT, HOLST SAID THAT WE MUST BE WILLING TO TELL POLITICIANS MORE THAN WE ARE APPARENTLY CURRENTLY WILLING TO DO AND WE MUST GIVE THEM MATERIAL AND CONCEPTS WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO PERSUADE THE ICELANDIC ELECTORATE. HOLST ADDED THAT WE MUST ALSO BE AWARE THAT THE SPD, THE INDEPENDENCE PARTY, AND SKAFTASON ALL REQUIRE DIFFERENT POSITIONS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES AND WE MUST BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR NEEDS WITH PLAUSIBLE INFORMATION. AT THE REQUEST OF THE AMBASSADOR HOLST AGREED TO EXPAND HIS VIEWS ON THIS SCORE AND CONVEY THEM TO US THROUGH THE NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR IN REYKJAVIK.

6. GENERAL HUITFELD'S BRIEFING/PRESENTATION AT THE CONFERENCE IS REPORTED TO HAVE HAD PARTICULARLY FAVORABLE IMPACT ON ICELANDIC AUDIENCE. WHILE MUCH OF THE MATERIAL WAS SIMILAR TO THAT PRESENTED IN IDF BRIEFINGS, HE APPARENTLY WAS MORE FORTHCOMING WITH FIGURES AND CONCEPTS THAN US. HE APPARENTLY SURMOUNTED CLASSIFICATION CONCERNS. HOLST'S "BIG PICTURE" POLITICAL/MILITARY PRESENTATION, STRESSING BOTH SCENARIOS OF THREATS AND CONTRIBUTION OF STANDING FORCES TO STABLE PEACE, ALSO JUDGED PARTICULARLY PERSUASIVE. IRVING UNQUOTE RUSH

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